

Tang and Song Dynasties

Tang

- Tang dynasty emerges in 618.
- Li Yuan is the first Tang emperor.
- Li Shimin takes the throne and the name Tang Taizong.
- Vietnam, Tibet, and Korea are forced to become tributary states.
- Empress Wu Zhao and other Tang rulers restore the Han system of government.
- Land reform redistributes land to peasants.
- Corruption, high taxes, drought, famine, and rebellions weaken the Tang.
- Rebel general overthrows the last Tang emperor in 907.
- Greatest poet is Li Bo.

Song

- Zhao Kuangyin founds the Song dynasty in 960.
 - Invaders are constantly threatening from the north.
 - The Song retreat south of Huang River in the early 1100s.
 - New type of faster-growing rice is imported from Southeast Asia.
 - More people are able to pursue commerce, learning, or the arts.
 - Grand Canal reaches its peak.
 - Custom of foot binding emerges.
 - Landscape paintings show balance and harmony.
- Period has great achievements.
 - Foreign trade flourishes.
 - Society is well ordered, with scholar-officials, gentry, peasantry, and merchants.
 - Women have higher status than in later times.
 - Rich culture emphasizes painting and calligraphy.
 - Buddhist themes influence sculpture and architecture.
 - Porcelain is perfected.
 - Writers produce prose and poetry.